

## **REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10, 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tamura in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0097243 (“Yamashita”). In this reply, applicant is amending independent claims 1, 12 and 16 to further clarify what is being claimed. In addition, new claim 20 is being added. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraphs 0033, 0037 and 0038 of the original specification.

The Office Action, while conceding Tamura does not disclose the available adapters being dynamically updated, alleges that Yamashita discloses dynamically updating available adapters as a function of at least detecting one or more failed paths, citing Yamashita’s device file mapping table in figure 8 and paragraphs 348-350. Yamashita as understood by applicant discloses storage path control method. In the cited passages, Yamashita discloses that upon accessing a volume and at occurrence of an error of an event in which the pertinent device is not detected, a dynamic switching function is used to set an alternate path. Yamashita further discloses that in such an event, a check is made through the paths having the same volume identifier and the same host identifier as those of the inputted path (the failed path) to detect a path in the standby state.

Tamura and Yamashita, however, do not disclose or suggest every element claimed in independent claims 1, 12 and 16 as amended. For example, as the Office Action concedes Tamura does not disclose dynamically updating a list of available adapters. Yamashita

also does not disclose or suggest, “a list of the available adapters displayed on the user interface being dynamically updated as a function of at least detecting one or more failed or newly established paths through the available adapters or detecting an adapter reconfigured to a protocol that is not handled, the list being updated by at least removing from said list the adapter reconfigured to a protocol that is not handled or adding an adapter via which a new path has been established between the source storage resource and the target storage resource.” That is, while Yamashita appears to disclose finding an alternate path when an actual access to a volume fails, Yamashita does not disclose dynamically updating a list of available adapters on a user interface. In the present application, the list is updated dynamically, for example, so that a user can select one or more available adapters as a path, and for example, as to possibly reduce the occurrence of situations where an alternate path needs to be set during the actual access to the volume as is done in Yamashita.

For at least the above reason, applicant believes independent claims 1, 12 and 16, and their respective dependent claims by virtue of dependency are not obvious over Tamura and Yamashita.

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tamura in view of Yamashita further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0001307 (“Nguyen”). Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 depend from Claim 1, and therefore, the same reasoning given above for distinguishing Claim 1 from Tamura applies to Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11. Further, while Nguyen as understood by applicant discloses configuration of virtual connections, Nguyen does not make up for which Tamura and Yamashita fail to disclose. Accordingly, it is believed that Tamura, Yamashita and Nguyen do not disclose or suggest every element claimed in claims 5, 6, 9 and 11.

In view of the amendments made to independent claims and the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) grounds, and withdraw the rejections of the claims either directly or indirectly dependent thereon by virtue of their dependency.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



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